

Opencut Mining Program

December 14, 2007

Subject: Portable, Inc. Amendment to Ogle-Valley Center Pit

To all interested parties:

Portable, Inc. applied in October 2007, to this department, to expand its Ogle-Valley Center operation by 10 acres. If approved, the amendment would provide raw material to continue this aggregate operation and extend final from 2014 to 2017. This pit is 1 mile west of Jackrabbit Road on Valley Center Road. Operations basically would continue as presently permitted. The crusher would remain in the Phase IV location behind the soil berm and material would be conveyed to it from the new 10-acre Phase V area just to the east.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) attached to this letter identifies and analyzes impacts of the expanded project. It has been mailed to all parties that have shown an interest in the project, including interested local residents, the Gallatin County Commissioners, and other local government agencies.

This Supplemental EA is available online at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/ea/opencut.asp>. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, you can submit them to me:

- by mail to 1371 Rintop Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
- by fax to 406-247-4440;
- by e-mail to jostephen@mt.gov; or
- by phone at 406-247-4435.

All comments must be received by Friday, January 4, 2008.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jo Stephen
Reclamation Specialist

JS/db

DEQ OPENCUT MINING PROGRAM

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proponent: Portable, Inc

Site: Valley Central (Ogle) Gravel Pit

Legal: NWSW of Sec. 23, T1S, R4E

County: Gallatin

Approved Permit and Amendment #'s: 00339, Amendment # 1, 5, and 6

Type and Purpose of Action: Operator has applied for an amendment to add 10 acres to the permit area for mining. The new area is immediately east of the last amendment, the 9.7-acre area on the north side of the old railroad grade. This additional 10 acres would increase the total permitted area to 36 acres and allow mining of an additional 756,000 cubic yards of material. The final reclamation date would be extended from 2014 to 2017. The existing plan of operation is applicable to this amendment area. The bond amount was increased to \$33,479.00, and is sufficient for whole permit area.

Mining and Permitting History of the Site: The site was originally permitted for 30 acres in 1978. Amendments for additional acreage were approved in 1996 and 2004. The plan of operation was updated in 2004 when 9.7 acres were added. Full bond release on 28.6 acres of ponds and an additional 20.1 acres for industrial/commercial use of hardscape/facilities areas was granted in 2004. Total land in the existing permit and amendment areas is currently 26.0 acres. This includes a portion of Phase III, road and conveyor belt areas, and 9.3 acres north of the old railroad grade.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation: The conclusions from the RAM Environmental hydrologic report of 1996 that pit dewatering would have no impact to surrounding wells or groundwater seem to have been confirmed. DEQ has not received any complaints about groundwater in the last 11 years. Discharge water from the Phase IV pit was returned to the pond in Phase III where it reinfilters and recharges local groundwater supplies. Phase V is adjacent to both Phases III and IV. Following the existing water management plan in the new area is expected to have minimal impacts.

Phases IV and V are contiguous. The soil berm would be extended along the northern boundary of Phases IV and V. The crusher would remain in Phase IV behind the sound berm. Material would be transported from Phase V by loader or conveyor. Because activities would remain in the present location or be farther away from local residents, noise and visual impacts are expected to remain the same or be reduced.

Hours of operation would remain as they are now: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The 10-acre Amendment #7 area is presently used for hay production. Most of the 10 acres would be permanently removed from agricultural production. At final reclamation the majority of this area would be a pond. Reclamation to ponds of previous mining areas in this permit has been highly successful as fish, waterfowl, and wildlife habitat. Trout fisheries are established in Ponds I and II. Cormorants, pelicans, ducks, geese and numerous shorebirds use these ponds annually, even though they are near active gravel operations. Shorelines, the railroad grade, and surrounding land harbor deer, fox, and numerous other wildlife species. Full bond release has been given on over 28 acres of these areas. It is expected that reclamation of Phase IV and V ponds would be equally successful.

Approval of this amendment would allow continuation of the existing operation at approximately the same activity levels. Mining the 800,000 yards of material from the 1996 amendment was completed by 2004. The Phase IV amendment for 275,000 yards has been exhausted in the last three years. Extending the mining of 756,000 yards of material from Phase V over the next 10 years would result in approximately the same removal rates. Daily work and traffic levels would be approximately the same. It is unknown if or when expansion of Jackrabbit Lane and installation of traffic signals would occur. Therefore, it is unknown if traffic patterns would change.

Since 2004 the Dykstra Pit has been permitted approximately 2½ miles to the east off East Hulbert Road and two applications have been received for new pits at the corner of Cameron Bridge and South Alaska Roads. An application for amendment was received in 2003 for the Marx Pit 2 miles to the east near the intersection of Valley Central Road and Alaska South Roads, but that was placed on hold at the request of the applicant. As yet no analysis or approval action has been taken on these applications. Before any action would be taken on the Marx request, new application materials would be required. Should these applications be approved the largest impact in the vicinity would most likely be to increase traffic levels on Cameron Bridge and Valley Center Roads east, and west to Jackrabbit Lane. Dykstra pit traffic must go to Jackrabbit Lane because of a bridge restriction to the east.

Portable, Inc. would operate the proposed Nistler pit on Highline Road 4 miles to the west if it were approved. That application is for a relatively full-service aggregate operation. It is unknown if there would be any substantial connection between these two sites.

The proponent would be legally bound by his permit to reclaim the site. The previous environmental assessment and supplemental assessments are applicable to this action.

Prepared by Jo Stephen, December 2007

DEC 9 2007

COS NO. 3208
 WILLIAM E. FLYNN
 DIANO A. FLYNN
 49 Fm 2621

TRACT 4A-1
COS NO. 320E
SCHWALM

TRACT 4A-2
COS NO 320E
HOWARD

TRACT 69
COS. NO. 320D
BATTY

TRACT 1A
COS NO. 1475
MARX

Ludwig Lane

Engineering and Surveying Inc.
1091 Stoneridge Drive • Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone (406) 587-1115 • Fax (406) 587-9768
www.chemineers.com • info@chemineers.com

**MINING RECLAMATION PLAN
PORTABLE, INC.**

4 dyes into
phone 11/27/07
Jennifer

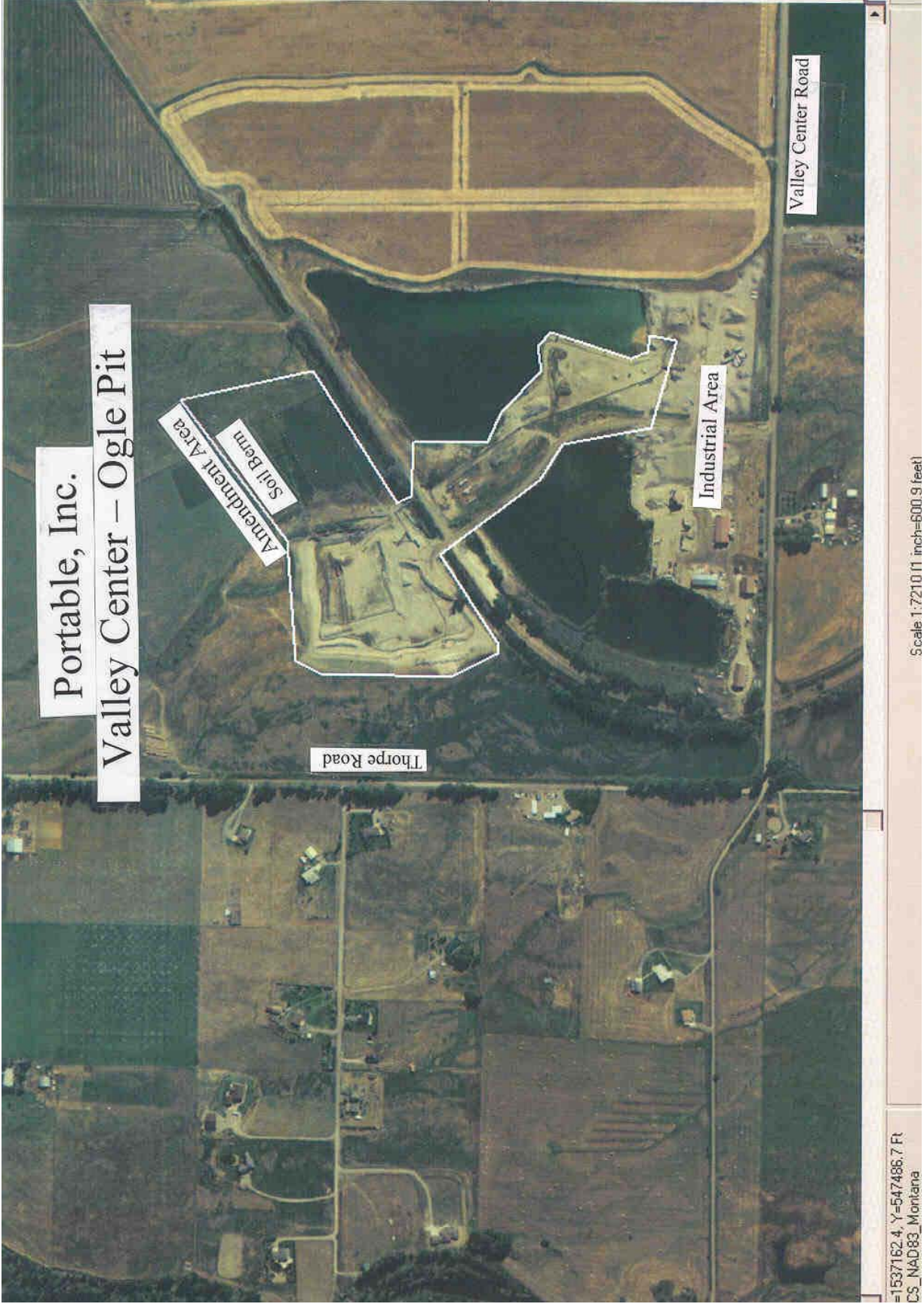
REMAINDER
COS 352
8,697,509 Sq Ft
199.6673 Acres
NOT INCLUDED

Sheet 1 of 1

DATE PREPARED: 07.12.2007 42 Fm 1082C

42 Fm 1082C

#07377.1(D



=1537162.4, Y=547486.7 Ft
CS_NAD83_Montana

Scale 1:721011 inch=600.9 feet

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROPONENT: Portable, Inc. SITE NAME: Valley Center Pit - Belgrade
 LOCATION: NWSW, Section 23, Township 1S, Range 4E COUNTY: Gallatin

TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:

Supplemental EA for Portable, Inc. submitted an amendment to expand its active mining area in the Valley Central Pit by 9.73 acres. The new area is just across the abandoned NP Railroad R/W from Phases II (fully reclaimed) and III (currently being mined). The area would include about 6 acres for mining, 1 acre for a noise/visual berm, and 1 acre each for conveyor and road corridors. About 275,000 yards of material would be mined and crushed in the new area, and otherwise processed at the existing permanent facilities area.

A: Significant Unavoidable Impacts. B: Insignificant as a result of conditioned mitigation. C: Insignificant as proposed.

	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES					EXPLANATION
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TOPOGRAPHY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reclamation plan calls for mined areas to be left as ponds. Two phases have already been successfully reclaimed as such.
2. <u>GEOLOGY</u> ; Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permanent removal of materials.
3. <u>SOILS</u> ; Quality, Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Salvaged and stockpiled in visual berm. Replaced at reclamation on any hardstand areas and down to the high water mark on the pond.
4. <u>WATER</u> ; Quality, Quantity; Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The hydrologic study from 1996 is still current and the expected impact predictions are accurate. A dewatering cone of depression would not impact any of the neighbors. Material would be washed at the existing facility in Phase III. Permanent ponds would be left very similar to Phases I and II which have received total reclamation release.
5. <u>AIR</u> ; Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All necessary equipment is permitted.
6. <u>UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, or LIMITED</u> environmental resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None identified.
BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN, and AQUATIC</u> ; species and habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment area would temporarily remove habitat but the reclamation activities in Phases I and II have greatly improved both aquatic and land habitats.
2. <u>VEGETATION</u> ; Quantity, quality, species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Previously farmed. By following the approved weed plan noxious weeds are successfully being controlled. The main infestations left are along the railroad R/W.

3. <u>AGRICULTURE</u> ; grazing, crops, production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area has not been used for several years.
POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES						
	A	B	C	LONG TERM	SHORT TERM	EXPLANATION
HUMAN ENVIRONMENT						
1. <u>SOCIAL</u> , structures and mores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. <u>CULTURAL</u> ; Uniqueness, diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. <u>POPULATION</u> ; quantity and diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. <u>HOUSING</u> ; quantity and distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5. <u>HUMAN HEALTH & SAFETY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. <u>COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INCOME</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. <u>EMPLOYMENT</u> ; quantity and distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. <u>TAX BASE</u> ; local and state tax revenue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The public raises the issue of nearby property devaluation but there is no evidence that this occurs. Jim Fairbanks, Region 3 Manager of the Montana Department of Revenue, Property Assessment Division said in 1998: "In the course of responding to valuation challenges of ad valorem tax appraisals, your reviewer has encountered similar arguments from Missoula County taxpayers regarding the presumed negative influence of gravel pits, BPA power lines, neighborhood character change, and traffic and other nuisances. In virtually ALL cases, negative value impacts were not measurable. Potential purchasers accept newly created minor nuisances that long-time residents consider value diminishing."
9. <u>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</u> ; demand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10. <u>INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL</u> and <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11. <u>HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12. <u>AESTHETICS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	One citizen complained that he could hear the operation at his home about 1,000 feet away. This home has been constructed in the last few years. The mine has been permitted since 1977. Operating hours are from 6 a m to 6 p m 6 days a week. The pit does not operate on Sundays. The crusher would be placed in the new area about 2 feet below present ground level. A visual/noise berm about 14 feet high would be constructed between the nearest houses to

						the west and the new area. This mitigation is sufficient under the Opencut Act. But Portable has also hired an accoustical engineering firm to research other methods of reducing noise impacts from the mine and released hardscape area that no longer is regulated by this program.
13. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS and GOALS; local and regional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Belgrade area - no zoning.
14. DEMANDS on ENVIRON- MENTAL RESOURCES of land, water, air and energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15. TRANSPORTATION; networks and traffic flows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Some citizens have complained that traffic would increase on Thorpe Road. The site has been mined since 1977. The commercial and hardstand areas are in the same locations with the same entrance onto Valley Center Road. Most of the traffic goes east toward Jackrabbit Road. There is no reason to suspect that there would be an increase in traffic or that an increased amount of traffic would turn west and get onto Thorpe Road.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: No Action - Denial

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Belgrade Planner, Gallatin County Weed Board, Gallatin County Commissioners, several
local citizens

OTHER GROUPS OR AGENCIES CONTACTED OR WHICH MAY HAVE OVERLAPPING JURISDICITON:

REGULATORY IMPACT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY: _____

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐ EIS ☐ MORE DETAILED EA ☒ NO FURTHER ANALYSIS

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS EA:

The original EA from 1996 is still applicable.

Written By: _____

(Signature)

Date: 3-9-04

Approved By: _____

(Signature)

Date: 3-9-04

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: SW1/4SW1/4, Sec.23, T 1 S, R 4 E, Gallatin County

COMPANY NAME: Portable, Inc.

DATE: 3/12/04 PREPARED BY: Jerry Burke

PRIVATE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ACT CHECKLIST

DOES THE PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION HAVE TAKINGS IMPLICATIONS UNDER THE PRIVATE ASSESSMENT ACT?

YES	NO	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Does the action pertain to land or water management or environmental regulation affecting private real property or water rights?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Does the action result in either a permanent or indefinite physical occupation of private property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Does the action deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of the property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Does the action deny a fundamental attribute of ownership?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Does the action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or to grant an easement? (If answer is NO, skip questions 5a and 5b and continue with question 6.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5a. Is there a reasonable, specific connection between the government requirement and legitimate state interests?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5b. Is the government requirement roughly proportional to the impact of the proposed use of the property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Does the action have a severe impact on the value of the property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Does the action damage the property by causing some physical disturbance with respect to the property in excess of that sustained by the public generally? (If the answer is NO, skip questions 7a-7c)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7a. Is the impact of government action direct, peculiar, and significant?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7b. Has the government action resulted in the property becoming practically inaccessible, waterlogged, or flooded?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7c. Has the government action diminished property values by more than 30% and necessitated the physical taking of adjacent property or property across a public way from the property in question?

Taking or damaging implications exist if YES is checked in response to question 1 and also to any one or more of the following questions: 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 7c; or if NO is checked in response to questions 5a or 5b.

If taking or damaging implications exist, the agency must comply with § 5 of the Private Property Assessment Act, to include the preparation of a taking or damaging impact assessment. Normally, the preparation of an impact assessment will require consultation with agency legal staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

From APRIL, 1996

Project Name: Belgrade Gravel Pit **Proposed Implementation Date:** Ongoing

Proponent: Portable Inc. Gravel Co.

Type and Purpose of Action: Portable will expand their current operation to mine 800,000 cu.yds of sand and gravel to supply the local market with various products. Portable would salvage soils, install pumps to dewater the sites, mine sand and gravel, recontour, creating two 8 acre ponds up to 45 feet deep that would be utilized for recreation and wildlife habitat. The slopes above the highwater line and the 7.3 acres of hardstand areas, crusher site, and mineral stockpile locations will be topsoiled and seeded and reclaimed as a portion of a golf course and home sites.

Location: SE¼SW¼, Sec. 23, T1S, R4E **County:** Gallatin

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	<p>[Y] The proposed site lies on a relatively level portion of the Gallatin River Valley. This area is an alluvial deposit consisting of silt, sand and gravel and is of Quaternary age.</p> <p>Soils are classified as a Beaverall cobbly loam. The upper horizon is 0 to 7 inches deep and is a dark grayish brown cobbly loam. There are inclusions which have 35 to 60 percent rock fragments in the surface layer. The next lower horizons are of a dark grayish brown very gravelly sandy clay loam and are 7 to 11 inches deep. A minimum of 6 inches of soil would be replaced on the pond shorelines, crusher site, hardstand areas, and mineral stockpile sites following recontouring. Microbes should recolonize the soils when they have been replaced.</p>
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?	<p>[Y] The nearest surface waters are two irrigation ditches. The Owenhouse (Ketterer) Ditch is to the west of the expansion and immediately east of the existing operation. The Mammoth Ditch is located immediately east of the expansion. Neither ditch should be impacted by the expansion.</p> <p>The groundwater level varies seasonably between 3 feet to 13 feet below the existing ground surface. Three monitoring wells were drilled on the site and the transmissivity as measured in the wells indicated that the transmissivity varied from 3,720,000 to 42,200,000 gpd/ft in this area and that water quality is very good. The groundwater flows from the south to the north. The operator will dewater the pits by placing pumps into sumps located in the pits. The intakes of the pumps would be suspended to help prevent sediment from being picked up and discharged. According to the hydrology report approximately 1,800 - 3000 gpm will have to be pumped from the area to dewater the site. The water will be discharged to the west through pipes into a reclaimed gravel pit which is a pond. The applicant did not have to secure a discharge permit from the Water Quality Division of DEQ.</p> <p>There are no water wells which would be impacted by the dewatering of the site. Upon completion of pumping the ground water will return to its premine level within a short period of time.</p> <p>The applicant has constructed impermeable fueling and fuel storage areas to contain any leaks of petroleum based products next to Portable's shop complex located to the southwest.</p>

3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] There will be an increase in airborne particulates while the soil is being salvaged, the gravel being crushed and hauled, and soil replaced. The applicant has secured an Air Quality Permit from the Montana Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences Air Quality Bureau and must abide with all applicable air quality guidelines. The gravel will be wet when it is mined and this will help meet air quality standards. If required, spray bars will be placed on the crusher to suppress dust. The hard stand areas, soil stockpiles, and haul roads will be watered as necessary.
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[Y] Existing vegetation will be removed with the soil. Some roots may remain viable in the soil stockpile and regenerate upon replacement. The applicant will seed all affected land to species compatible with the post mine land use. The site has been planted with non native species and no rare or threatened plants are present.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] The location of the proposed operation precludes the significant use of wildlife, although it would be expected to receive transient use by various avian species and some rodents.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N] No threatened or endangered plant or animal species present on this site. There is no wetland present on the site. The site is a hayfield containing introduced grass species.
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] A field reconnaissance survey did not reveal the presence of any archaeological or historic values. Should significant archaeological or historical values be found, the operation will be routed around the site of discovery for a reasonable time until salvage can be made. The State Historical Preservation Office will be promptly notified.
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[Y] During the mining phase, the site will be visually deteriorated, however, following reclamation, well designed, natural looking ponds will be in place.
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N]
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION	
RESOURCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[Y] The use of heavy mining and hauling equipment increases the risk of accidents. However, the applicant must comply with OSHA and MSHA regulations and it is expected that safety considerations will be given the utmost attention.
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] 23.7 acres will be permanently removed from agricultural (grazing and hay production) where the ponds, golf course and home sites will be created. However ponds will be created for recreation, waterfowl and fishery habitat. And the area around the ponds will be developed for home sites and a golf course.

13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N]
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N] The site will require periodic site evaluations by DSL staff, however they would generally be conducted in conjunction with other regional sites.
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[N] There is no zoning on the site.
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[N]
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

22. Alternatives Considered: and fuels consumed Alternative # 1: Denial.
The owner of the gravel resource would be denied utilization of his property at this time.

23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted: Gallatin Co. Weed Board and Road Department.

24. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction, List of Permits Needed: Gallatin County for Zoning Compliance, Water Quality Division, Air Quality Division, MSHA and OSHA for safety permits.

25. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: Not applicable. A finding of significance is relevant only to the requirement to prepare an EIS under MEPA. However, the statutory time constraints of the Opencut Mining Act preclude preparation of an EIS. Therefore, no such finding is necessary here.

26. Regulatory Impact on Private Property: The analysis conducted in response to the Private Property Assessment Act indicates no impact.

Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

[] EIS

[] More Detailed EA

[X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Jerry Burke Mine Reclamation Specialist
Name Title

Approved By: Steve Welch Chief, Opencut Bureau

Name Title

Signature

Date